



A \$6,000 BRIBE FOR A LEADER.

For This Paltry Sum the Head of the Sandbagging Gang in the House

Gave His Time and His Influence to the Corrupt Corporations Who Were Threatened.

The Toils Are Slowly but Surely Tightening About the Betrayers of the People.

The Veteran Chicago Railroad and Warehouse Lobbyist Again Comes Bouncing to the Front.

A Sangamon County Grand Jury Will Probably Reach Him Before a Year Elapses.

Six thousand dollars was the paltry bribe for which the head of the House gang violated his oath of office and sold out the interests of the people to the corporations of Illinois.

For this sum of money this man subordinated his undoubtedly brilliant intellect and prostituted his high office to the trusts and monopolies of Illinois.

For that sum he assumed the leadership of the House clique, and worked in harmony with the Senate syndicate. For that sum he worked by day and planned by night. He toiled and sweated until the flesh melted off his bones, and he came near becoming a physical wreck. What the other fellows in the House clique received can only be conjectured, but when it is considered that the leader—the man who really "did the business"—received the wretched sum of \$6,000 for his services, it will be readily understood that the others were a cheap lot indeed.

This man, who sold the people for \$6,000, is well known to the people of this State. His name has been frequently mentioned in the press and otherwise for favors at the hands of the public. Should he ever appear before the voters of Illinois again, he will have to tell all about that \$6,000.

The evidence of this man's infamy is strong—in fact, indisputable. The charge was made by another leading member of the lower house, who was here in Chicago a short time ago.

He is a blunt and fearless—indeed, some say an indiscreet—fellow. In a certain South Side resort this man, in discussing the affairs of the last Legislature, said: "I received exactly \$6,000 for taking the side of the corporations during the entire session. It was the lowest price for which a man holding his position was ever purchased by the monopolies."

The man who made this statement was "sore," and made no bones about saying he made less at the last Legislature than ever before, not excepting even his first term.

The fact, however, that the leader of the House clique was bought cheaply does not go to prove that the corporations got off cheap all around. It cost an enormous sum to settle with the Senate syndicate. The Gas Trust was the hardest hit of all the monopolies.

This was due to the fact that they had more adverse legislation to take care of than any of the others.

On this account, it is said, the Chicago Gas Trust had to "sweeten" the jack-pot heavy and often.

All the arrangements were made by the old-time railroad lobbyist.

The go-betweens during the entire Legislature were two members of a prominent State board. One of these is known himself as a railroad lobbyist, as well as a State official. The other held two official positions at the time he acted as one of the go-betweens for the Legislature and the corporations.

These two men live in Springfield, yet they visited Chicago regularly every week. They made their reports to the chief lobbyist every Friday. Their only business in Chicago every week was with this man. They were tracked regularly to the Rookery Building, where their reports were delivered.

This done they hastened back to the State capital.

These two men got \$5,000 apiece for their services. They are both now holding office under the State, and if questioned by a Sangamon Grand Jury could be made to tell more about how the Trusts were taken care of than would form evidence enough to send a couple of score of legislators to the penitentiary.

They "stood in" at the final "melon cutting."

On the night, or rather the morning, of the adjournment of the Forty-first General Assembly the Cook County members of the "Syndicate" were in a violent hurry to get out of Springfield. The reason for this was the fact that there was an arrangement to meet with the representatives of the Illinois trusts and corporations on Saturday, April 15, in Chicago.

There were but two members of the Syndicate and the chief lobbyist of the corporations present at that meeting. One of these was a Cook County Senator, the other was a son from an adjacent county.

To these latter the bribe money was paid over.

The man from Cook County got the lion's share, which was evenly distributed among the members of the select ring. The two go-betweens followed the leaders of the Syndicate without much delay. A very few hours intervened between the departure of the Syndicate members and the arrival in Chicago of the go-betweens.

The names of all these parties have been given to The Eagle by men who are ready to swear to what they say. Among the bills which had to be slaughtered on the final day of the session in order that the corporation bribe fund could be claimed were two vitally affecting the interests of the Chicago Gas Trust.

One of these was House bill 514. This bill was for an act creating a department of light in cities of 100,000 population or more to regulate the care, quality, measurement and price of gas by inspectors appointed to render such reports monthly to consumers of gas. This was one of the bills most dreaded by the Gas Trust of Chicago.

It was forced, notwithstanding all opposition, out of committee and to second reading. On the last day of the session, however, it was smothered with other measures that had been branded by the corporations.

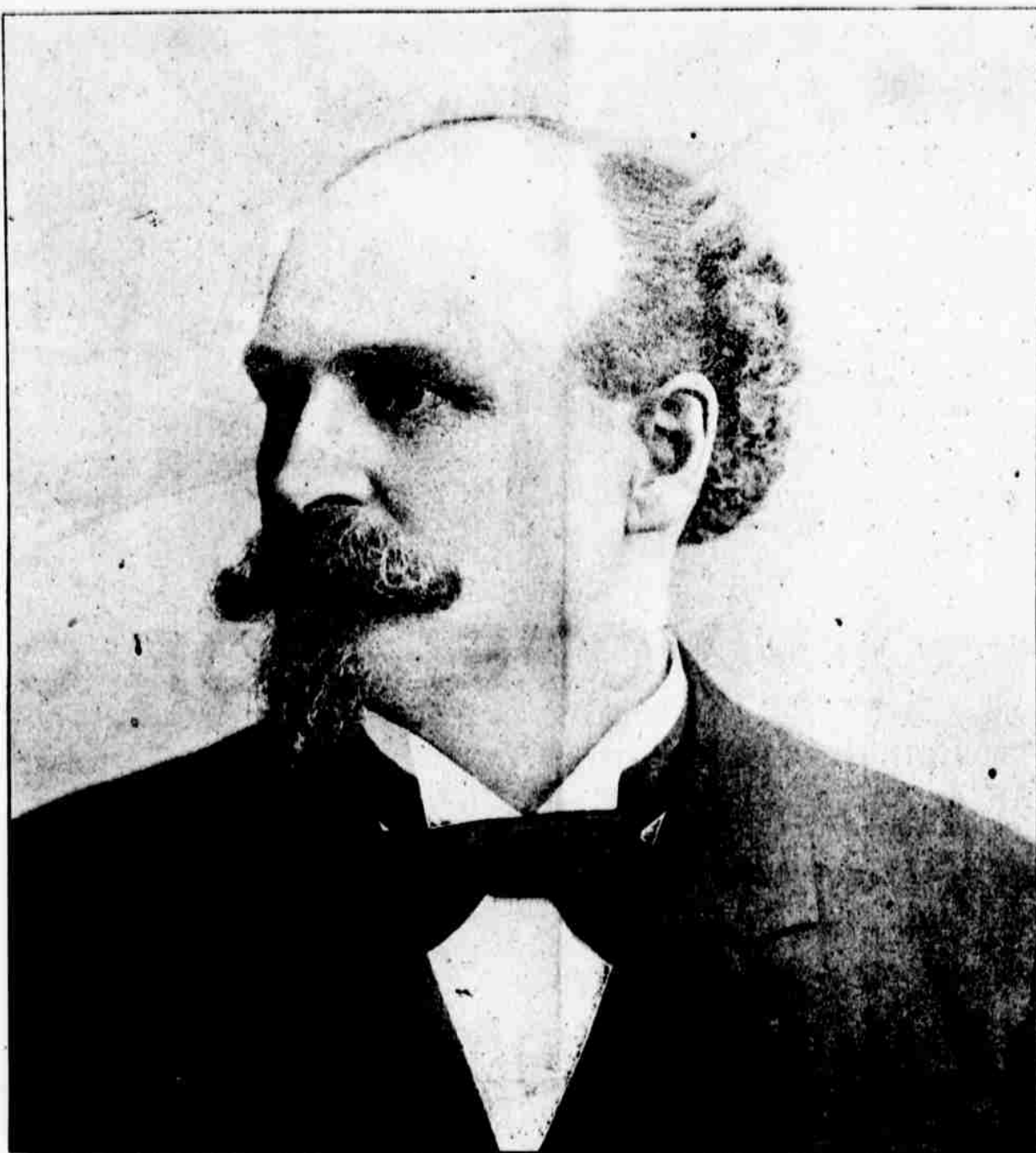
Another bill was House bill 308, which fixed the maximum price of gas at 65 cents a thousand feet.

This bill was the one which caused the Gas Trust to raise the ante. It was forced to third reading, but there it withered. The tactics of the gang leader, whose services were bought for \$5,000 for the entire session, were insurmountable.

Thus the goods were delivered and the bribe money earned. The manner in which the "ante" was raised by the Gas Trust was in the shape of tips for stock jobbing. These tips were given to outsiders by leading members of both houses.

Of this more anon.

The Calumet Western is up again in the City Council. It is alleged that there is \$50,000 in it.



HON. ZINA R. CARTER.

Trustee of the Sanitary District, Who is Opposed to Giving Away the People's Water Power Without the Right Compensation.

Wise and patriotic Aldermen are on their guard over the attempt of the attorneys for the Gas Trust to get a railroad ordinance through the Council.

The railroad should not be permitted to be built.

It should never be granted an ordinance.

The Gas Trust is very wealthy, and its money will do wonders, but this railroad should not be built in any event.

The proposed Gas Trust road is known as the Calumet Western Railway, and it is now waiting for the City Council to give it an ordinance.

The proposed ordinance will give the lines of road which extend through the streets of the whole southeastern portion of the city. It should never be passed.

The line which is to be constructed by the monopoly will extend from Hegewisch north to South Chicago on the west side of the Calumet River and the South Chicago and Southern Railway lines. A loop will be put in for the use of all three of the lines of road which extend through the Calumet district, and in addition it is intended to construct a railway through Thornton. The Trust has made purchase of property in that town for the use of the three railways, and the road will follow the south line of the north of the sections of Thornton. The road will start from Calumet Park, where the Michigan Central and the South Chicago and Southern Roads cross.

It will literally own the whole section asked for and will virtually shut out competition. Every Alderman not owned by the Gas Trust should vote against the Calumet Western ordinance.

Aldermen who value the good will of the people should beat the Calumet Western Railway ordinance.

Watch the Calumet Western. It is touch.

Calumet Western is a good name for a bad proposition.

Captain William Peterson intends calling his new steam yacht the Ed M. Lahti, after the Mayor's popular Secretary.

Mayor Harrison's plan for a viaduct connecting the North and South Side boulevards is on excellent one and should be adopted.

"Bumps" Billings may run for Alderman himself next spring.

Colonel Hartigan has again formally tendered the services of the Seventh Regiment to the Federal government.

by telegraphing to Adjutant General Corbin in Washington.

"Bumps" Billings is facetious. He has called his fast trotting horse "Bumps" after himself.

Ask your Alderman how much he expects from the Calumet Western deal.

The Anti-Trust League will make things lively in Illinois next year.

Chicago taxpayers are opposed to the Drainage Trustees letting the water-power contract on any such basis as the one proposed by Clarence Buckingham. The Drainage Trustees should not forget that the rights of over two million of people are concerned in the letting of this water-power contract.

Hyde Park Republicans say that if Cook County gets a place on the next Republican State ticket, Hyde Park will present the name of Major A. W. Clancy as a candidate for Auditor. Major Clancy has long been identified with the Republican organization in Hyde Park, and is considered "good timber" for the State ticket, because of his popularity over the State even outside of Cook County.

The Tenth Ward is to nominate Hon. A. W. Noble for the Legislature next year and the Twelfth will probably favor Hon. George W. Kroll. In this way two old-time Republican leaders and ex-members of the Illinois Legislature will be returned to the lower house at Springfield.

Hon. Edward F. Kennedy, head of the great Kennedy Furniture Company, on Wabash avenue, is talked of for the Legislature in the Second Senatorial District. Mr. Kennedy's name is also being considered by Mayor Harrison, so it is claimed, as a good man for appointment to the Board of Education.

The West Side needs a man like Edward F. Kennedy on the School Board.

The Republican Marching Club has nominated officers for the next year. The slate for the principal officers is as follows: President, E. M. Craig; Vice Presidents, South Side, Frank G. Ewald; North Side, F. A. Busse; West Side, George Berz; Secretary, William T. Turner; Financial Secretaries, W. W. Maxwell and A. W. Joyce; Corresponding Secretary, A. W. Racer; Treasurer, F. P. Glendon and E. H. Taylor; Sergeant-at-arms, R. B. Longstaff.

Memories of the famous Council fight on the Calumet & Blue Island

Railroad ordinance are coming back since the determined fight made to push the Calumet Western ordinance through the Council Committee on Streets and Alleys, South. A subcommittee composed of Aldermen Martin, Boyd and Watkins has been named to investigate the project. Aldermen Coughlin and others have already charged that the proposition is thoroughly greased.

Will the Smoke Inspector kindly look after the smoke stacks on the National Life and New York Life Buildings?

A Chicago Judge has decided that where one is driving along a street in which there is an electric car track and he is run into from the rear, through the gross carelessness of the motorman, the injured person cannot recover damages. It was his duty to have kept out of the way. If this is "good law" it would be an excellent idea to elevate the roadways so that the people who once owned the streets may have some place where they can drive in comparative safety.

John T. Connery, Fritz Goetz, Washington Porter and Zenophile P. Brosseau are pretty certain of appointment as members of the School Board.

William Thibault, who was chairman of the committee on live stock and dairying in the last Legislature, as well as one of the prominent Cook County members during the session, has appeared minus his flowing black beard. He declares there is no connection between the loss of the beard and the fact that he was chairman of the committee.

Congressman W. H. Hinrichsen of Jacksonville, Mark Harris of Joliet, and State Senator Curley will deliver speeches before the Old Hickory Club of the Thirtieth Ward at the annual smoker Saturday night.

The labor organizations of Chicago have jumped into the Board of Education with an attack upon Superintendent Andrews. The cause bell is said to be a contribution recently furnished to a Colorado paper by the professor, in which he deals with the Mathusalem theory. Whether the labor people are acting wisely in this matter or not remains to be seen. Close observers of municipal politics say that Mayor Harrison has been the best friend that organized labor in Chicago has ever had, and that it is poor policy for the labor leaders to add to the burdens of a subject already sufficiently embarrassing to the chief executive.

Does "Bumps" Billings own Chicago?

"BUMPS" BILLINGS' BREAK.

The Fast-Driving Chief of the Gas Combine Threatens to Darken Chicago Streets.

He Writes a Letter to the Mayor Saying that if Awful Bills Aren't Paid.

He Will Turn Out the Lights and Give the Sandbaggers Full Swing.

To Its Credit, Be It Said, the City Council Refuses to Be Bull-dozed.

And Two Orders Are Before It to Arrange Matters for a Finish Fight.

"Bumps" Billings served notice on the Mayor on Monday that he would leave the city to the mercy of thieves and thugs by turning out all its gas lamps.

This from "Bumps" Billings, the head of a trust which pays nothing for the use of the streets of Chicago, is good!

"Bumps" will soon be demanding all of the city revenues.

Alderman Culbertson presented at the City Council meeting Monday evening an order, which was passed, calling on the Corporation Counsel to report whether in his judgment the Council has the power to regulate not only the prices to be paid by the city for the gas it may use, but also the rates to be charged by the gas companies to private consumers.

It was put in nominally in answer to a report submitted by the Mayor in which it was stated that the appropriation for gas for this year would be expended in thirty days, and that President "Bumps" Billings of the People's Gas Light and Coke Company had informed him that unless the Council did something to meet the situation the company would have to shut off the city's gas supply.

The Mayor said the matter was of the greatest importance and asked that it be referred to the Finance Committee for immediate action, which was done.

The Culbertson resolution, however, went further than an answer to the matter. It is the outgrowth of a discussion which has been going on among the best and cleanest Aldermen for a long time.

Ever since the Illinois Supreme Court decided in the Rogers Park water works case that a City Council could fix rates for corporations supplying a municipality with a necessity, like water, regardless of the rates fixed in the ordinance granting the franchise, as long as those rates were fair and reasonable, the Aldermen have been discussing the advisability of making an attempt to fix the prices to be charged in Chicago by the gas company, and the order passed was the result.

If the Corporation Counsel decides the Council has such power—and the Rogers Park case is relied on to influence his opinion—an attempt will be made to pass an ordinance reducing the gas rates in Chicago. The order was simply the start in the matter.

The fact that one of the counsel for the Gas Trust is on the bond of the Corporation Counsel is given as a reason by some persons why the Corporation Counsel will decide that the City Council has not the right to fix the price of gas. The Eagle knows Mr. Walker too well for that. He is as honest as he is able and if "Bumps" Billings himself was on his bond it would not influence him on gas matters.

Bernard A. Eckhart, of the Drainage Board, says that the public will lose \$17,500,000 if a fifty-year contract be signed giving the water power between Lockport and Hickory Creek at the rate suggested—\$2.50 a horse power. Business men and engineers who were seen recently unite in saying that a

grave responsibility rests upon the Board in connection with the subject, and that a serious mistake will be made if the water power is leased to any concern, even though it be upon the most advantageous terms that could be offered.

If this immense water power, estimated at 20,000 horse power with a flow of 300,000 cubic feet a minute and 38,000 horse power with a flow of 60,000 cubic feet a minute, they say, is valuable to a private corporation it is much more valuable to the Drainage Board and the people who are entitled to the benefits of it. That its use by the Board for its own power purposes and for rental to the city and others is entirely practicable is conceded by all, and some go so far as to say that in time it can be made to pay for the construction of the channel. That the power, which upon a most conservative estimate is worth from \$20 to \$25 a horse power yearly, should be rented for a period of fifty years at \$2.50 a horse power, they declare, is little short of public robbery.

In the matter of letting out water-power contracts by the Drainage Board, Trustees Carter and Eckhart can be depended upon to guard the people's rights as far as lies in their power to do so.

Some of the trust newspapers don't take kindly to Colonel John W. Gates' candidacy for United States Senator.

The people are watching the movements of the Drainage Trustees with a great deal of interest just now, regarding the letting of the water-power contract between Lockport and Hickory Creek.

"Bumps" Billings makes his coin in Chicago and spends it in New York.

"Bumps" Billings should explain to the public just what he ever gave for the streets he claims to own.

"Bumps" Billings cares nothing for Chicago. If his exorbitant bills are not paid all the people in Chicago may break their necks in the dark, for he will turn out the gas on them.

"Bumps" Billings is fighting the State inheritance tax due on money made off the people of Chicago. "Bumps" is fighting the city's right to regulate its lights. "Bumps" is fighting everybody.

Only a few Aldermen are in on the Calumet Western Railway deal. Why not take them all in?

Chief of Police Kipley is sticking manfully to his determination not to allow political influence to interfere with his management of the force. It is arduous work, as the politicians are hard fish to kill. They have been up against this line of policy before, and they do not die easily. The chief, however, says he means business this time, and whenever Kipley puts his foot down the matter in discussion is as good as settled.